

## Part 2: The Rwandan Genocide

Following is some basic information about the genocide in Rwanda. The age of your students will dictate the depth to which you go into the details of the genocide. Also, you will find resources to supplement your teaching of this event.

- The Republic of Rwanda is a country in central Africa. (See map at end.) It is a small, landlocked country whose economy relies heavily on agriculture.
- Before the genocide, the two major groups of people living there were the Hutu and Tutsi tribes.
- Throughout the centuries, there has been conflict between these two tribes of people.
- Although an agreement was signed in 1993, aimed at ending the civil war between the tribes, the worst violence was just around the corner.
- In April of 1994, the plane of the Hutu president, Habyarimana, and the Burundian president was shot down. It is unclear who was responsible, although it is believed that the Hutus were the perpetrators, as a way to incite war.
- The Hutus immediately and publicly blamed the Tutsis for the assassination, calling for the “systematic massacre of the Tutsis.” (BBC News - Timeline: Rwanda)
- Within 100 days, 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed. (BBC News - Timeline: Rwanda)
- In 1995, the United Nations convened a tribunal with the intent of charging and sentencing people responsible for the massacre.

In the context of history, the Rwandan genocide is fairly recent. As we have learned with past genocides, it takes time for people to really understand the scope and magnitude of the event, and therefore to publish information about it. There are not a lot of resources as yet for the genocide. However, there are some great online resources which could help in teaching about it:

- **Rwanda: The Wake of Genocide**

<http://www.rwanda-genocide.org/multimedia.html>

This website has links to many audio and visual resources, such as testimony from survivors, and some great PBS and BBC projects.

- **United Human Rights Council**

[http://www.unitedhumanrights.org/genocide/genocide\\_in\\_rwanda.htm](http://www.unitedhumanrights.org/genocide/genocide_in_rwanda.htm)

Basic information about the genocide.

- **Peace Pledge Union Information**

[http://www.ppu.org.uk/genocide/g\\_rwanda.html](http://www.ppu.org.uk/genocide/g_rwanda.html)

Good information about what led up to the genocide, as well as some survivor testimony.

- **Through the Eyes of Children**

<http://www.rwandaproject.org/>

Not a lot of information, but there are photographs taken by orphaned children, giving a great sense of the humanity of Rwanda today.

- **The National Security Archive**

<http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/>

This site is home to documents containing information on the involvement of the United States in the genocide.

